

Allen-Scott Report

Alleged Phone Tap Probed

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Mr. Allen

Senate probers are trying to determine if telephones in congressional offices are being monitored by either private investigators or government agencies.

The inquiry, underway for several weeks, is being conducted by the staff of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Practices headed by Senator Edward Long, D-Mo.

As part of the subcommittee's broad probe of government and private electronic eavesdropping practices, Chief Counsel Bernard Fensterwald is examining testimony before a special Massachusetts legislative commission stating that telephone cables to the Senate Office Buildings have been tapped.

The witness, Bernard P. Spindel, an expert on telephone monitoring from Holmes, N.Y., claims he discovered "about a year ago" a branch cable running from Capitol Hill to "an obscure building in which the Justice Department had an office."

Spindel, who has furnished other information on wiretapping to the subcommittee in the past, will again be questioned by Fensterwald to see if he has any new evidence to back up his latest charge.

If Spindel comes up with anything new, the Senate probers plan to ask him to testify in public hearings. Specifically, they want to quiz him about the location of "the cable and terminal connection box" that he claims to have seen.

Washington telephone company officials, who have vigorously denied knowledge of any phone monitoring at the Capitol, may also be asked to appear for questioning as well as several Justice Department officials.

Fensterwald, a former State Department legal expert, recently sent investigators to the Midwest to look into the Washington activities of an internationally operating private detective firm.

These investigators, although armed with information from inside the government, got nowhere in trying to check out a report that the firm was monitoring phones and doing undercover work here for both the Justice Department and the Central Intelligence Agency.

According to their report to Fensterwald, these probers learned only that the private

ber of former CIA and ex-agents and has offices in U.S. and abroad.

One informant said the company was originally set up by former employees of the Office of Strategic Services, a U.S. intelligence agency in World War II, but that these persons are not connected with the investigative operation.

In several ways Fensterwald's own investigative activities are as mysterious as some of those he is looking into.

The controversial chief counsel is compiling a list of former FBI agents holding government positions, especially in the State Department and Internal Revenue Service. He has made this list available to Washington newsmen.

A report is current that Fensterwald is seeking to trigger a probe of the FBI.

Also under cover of the phone monitoring probe, Fensterwald has been trying to obtain information on State Department Security Officer Otto Otepka, still awaiting a hearing on charges he gave classified information to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

The Internal Security and the Administrative Practices Subcommittees have separate offices, but both are under the jurisdiction of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

To add to the intrigue, both subcommittees have offices in the new Senate Office Building. It is from this building that Spindel claims the "monitored" phone cable that he allegedly inspected runs.

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover is convinced that "Che" Guevara, mysteriously missing for months, is still very much alive.

In Hoover's opinion the former top Cuban Communist will reappear at the head of another Latin American revolution.

These views were voiced by Hoover at a meeting of a House Appropriations Subcommittee when asked about Guevara's strange disappearance.

After saying that the FBI does not know of Guevara's whereabouts, Hoover declared:

"There are rumors he has been killed by Castro. There are other rumors he has been in Venezuela trying to stir up a revolution in that country. He also has been reported to be in the Honduras, Guatemala and most re-